

believe that it is appropriate to limit the use of the funds for only one purpose—strengthening Medicare. We don't believe that is appropriate. We believe if we are going to have a national tobacco policy, that some of the funds, a relatively modest amount of the total, be reserved for smoking cessation, smoking prevention, countertobacco advertising, health research, and other programs that have been advocated by the experts that have come before us.

The irony is, every comprehensive bill that is before this body uses the funds not just for Medicare but for these other purposes as well. The bill presented by Senator MCCAIN, the chairman of the Commerce Committee, the bill presented by Senator LUGAR, the chairman of the Agriculture Committee, the bill put before us by Senator HATCH, the chairman of the Judiciary Committee—all Republicans, all

committee chairmen—they have not said in their comprehensive bills we just use the money for Medicare. No; they have said, to have a comprehensive national tobacco policy, we have to do more than that; we have to have a tobacco control program that really helps us stop the 400,000 deaths that occur every year in this country because of the use of tobacco products.

Madam President, we urge our colleagues to listen to Dr. Koop, who wrote to us today that the approach of the chairman of the Senate Budget Committee is inadequate—in fact, he used the words “woefully inadequate”—to counter the scourge of tobacco. We should listen to the American Cancer Society that wrote to the committee today and said just using the money for Medicare is not adequate. We should listen to the American Lung Association that said in a letter to the committee today, just

using the money for Medicare is not going to help us solve the challenge of addiction, disease, and death brought to this country by the use of tobacco products.

Madam President, hopefully, before this matter is resolved out here on the Senate floor, we will be able to get together on a comprehensive plan. I hope we are able to do that. I dedicate myself to that purpose, and I hope other Senators will as well.

I thank the Chair and yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL TOMORROW
AT 9:30 A.M.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, March 19.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 7:04 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, March 19, 1998, at 9:30 a.m.